

Messages of the Love of God



A Kindness Repaid

Edmund Singer, who lived near Halifax, Nova Scotia, fed and sheltered a lost mongrel dog. The dog seemed grateful and hung around his shack for a time. Then he disappeared.

Singer was hurrying home one day a month or so later along an icy side road. A heavy snowstorm had set in - a storm that was merging into a blizzard. The temperature was below zero. Singer was none too warmly dressed. His foot slipped on a sheet of ice, hidden from sight by the fast-falling snow. Down went Singer with a crash breaking his right leg. There he lay, helpless, unable to move.

Few, if any, would pass along that isolated side road during such a blizzard. Singer was in immediate danger of freezing to death.

Then it was that a dark figure appeared, apparently from nowhere through the heavy-falling snow. It was the nameless mongrel dog Singer had befriended. The dog sniffed eagerly at the fallen, helpless man, then dashed off into the storm.

Joe Baron, a lumberman, was plodding along a main road some distance away when a dog sprang out of a swirl of snow. The dog whimpered and tugged at his coat, beside himself with excitement. Joe realized the dog wanted him to come somewhere, and he followed to where Singer lay half dead in a drift. The lumberman lifted the suffering man with much difficulty and helped him to the nearest house.

The mongrel dog capered ahead, barking in gay triumph - the dog had repaid Singer's kindness by saving him from death.

The dog has been called "man's best friend," and what a wonderful example of faithfulness many a dog has proved to be.

But man has a better Friend yet than the faithful creature who follows at his heels or sleeps beside the stove on cold winter nights. That is the Lord Jesus Christ. He has done what no creature ever has or ever could do. He left His home in the glory and came into this cold world of darkness and death to save poor man ready to perish.

We see Him pictured in the Samaritan who found the poor man lying half dead on the side of the road. While others passed him by, the Samaritan bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine. Then he traded places with the man, set him on his own donkey and brought him to an inn, where he provided for his keep until he should come back for him.

How many poor perishing sinners has the Lord Jesus found along the roadsides of this world. He has healed their wounds that sin and Satan have made; He has given them a new life by His Spirit and made their hearts glad.

He has raised them up together and made them sit together in heavenly places, and He has brought them to the company of His own people where they are comforted and cared for until He comes again.

All this the Lord Jesus has done for those who love Him. And much more will He do not only as long as we are in this world but when He has us in His eternal home in the glory.

Oh what a Saviour! Well might we praise and thank Him forever!

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:8, 9.

A Gift From The King



Albert was a young Swedish boy. One day he walked along the street very sad at heart. His mother was sick and he wanted to buy her some fruit. However, he only had a few pennies in his pocket. As he walked along he passed one of the estates that belonged to the King of Sweden. There in the beautiful gardens large bunches of luscious ripe grapes hung on the vines.

How good they looked, and as he stood and eyed them he thought of his mother. Picking up courage, Albert ventured to ask the gardener if he would sell him one of those bunches of grapes. The gardener, however, was a stern man and told Albert, "No, these grapes belong to the King."

It so happened that the King's son standing by overheard the conversation. He felt sorry for young Albert. Albert was almost overwhelmed when the young prince cut off two fine bunches of grapes and put them in his hand.

"Sir," said Albert, "how much money do you want for these grapes?"

"I don't want anything for them," replied the Prince. "My father does not *sell* them. He is the King and he *gives!*"

How happy Albert was as he ran home and presented the lovely grapes to his sick mother as a gift of the King.

Now God is like that, but oh so much more. It is His joy to give. We learn from the New Testament that He is a giving God, and that we are poor needy sinners, who have nothing to pay. And God has given His best — His only beloved Son. He could not have given more. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

Salvation is not to be bought with money, nor is it something we can work for, as many would have us to believe. Salvation is a gift from God, the Giver. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:8, 9.

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23. Have you this gift, dear reader?



"Do You Ken Christ?"

Old Isabel Chrystie was over 90 years of age and had long been on the heavenly way.

When the old pilgrim lay dying, she was unable to recognize family, friends or preacher. To each inquiry she still replied, "I do not ken you."

At last the question was put to her; "Isabel, do you ken Christ?"

The countenance of the dying saint brightened at the sound of her Saviour's name. Looking up with a smile, she promptly replied, "That I do, but nay say muckle as I would like, and will do by and by."

That night the aged believer went to be with Him whom she remembered and knew when all others were forgotten and unknown.



Jane's Decision

Jane was a young girl, just sixteen. She lived far out in the country so that it was only occasionally she could attend the little chapel where the Word of God was preached.

One Sunday she was reading a book, the biography of an honored Christian lady whom God had used in blessing to others. As she closed the volume, Jane said to herself, "That was a beautiful life." After a little thought she added, "And I should like to live such a life."

A few minutes later she knelt down and prayed, asking the Lord to make her His own so that she might live for Him and serve Him in her life. The Lord heard her prayer and gladly accepted her, even as she accepted Him as her Saviour, for He never turns any one away. Jane was supremely happy.

That was the great decision of her life. She went on steadfastly, living for Him whose love had won her young heart, and grew up to be an honored, beloved Christian lady.

Lord, make me from this hour,

Thy loving child to be,
Kept by Thy power, kept by Thy power,
From all that grieveth Thee.

A

Baby For A Nickel



A man once told a very little girl that he would sell her his baby for a nickel. Now little Nell loved little babies, and she thought that would be a very cheap way to get one; so she ran home quickly to get the money. Her mother was very busy and gave Nell the nickel, not stopping to listen to what the little girl wanted it for.

Little Nell ran back to the man expecting to claim the baby. Of course, the man would not give up his baby. He did not mean what he said, and the little girl went home crying bitterly.

Little Nell's mother always told her the truth. She thought that others meant what they said, just like Mother did.

It is wrong not to tell the truth, even though we may not mean anything by it. We often make others feel badly when we say things we do not mean.

Try to fill in the missing letters and complete this gospel text.

		I	S		S		F	I		F	U	
S		Y				N		W	O			Y
O		A			A	C	P			I		N
		A		C		I	S		J		U	S
		M	E		I		O		E		O	
		O		S			E		S		N	

Jesus said: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

Rev. 3:20

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Rom. 3:23



He's your best and truest
Friend,
One who always will defend.
Do not let Him knock in vain,
He may never come again.
Hear His gentle, loving voice,
Bid Him welcome, and rejoice.

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Joshua



Joshua 1:7-10

In order to encourage His people to go in and possess the land He had given them, the Lord graciously promised His unfailing presence, His strength and nearness to them in the conflict with the enemy. He knew that the giant sons of Anak still trod the land, and that those great high cities, walled up to heaven, were everywhere. So in His grace He would encourage His people to learn to measure these giants by His strength instead of their own, and the great walled cities by His power, not by their weapons of war.

"Be thou strong, and of a good courage," He had told them. And we, as Christians, are called to "be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." How well it is for us when we cease to look for strength in ourselves, when we realize that we have no might of our own, but find all our strength in God. The psalmist could say, "Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee. . . they go from strength to strength." (Psalm 84.)

Still again the Lord calls upon His people for strength and courage, but this time it is that they might obey all His Word, for obedience is always governed by the Word of God.

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses My servant commanded thee." God says, as it were, All My power is with thee, Joshua; but there must be obedience.

"Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left." They were not to deviate from it to even the slightest degree. One step aside will lead one astray altogether. As Christians we are called to walk a straight road, unlike

the crooked paths of this world, where every man goes his own way, afar from God! Israel must confess that "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and thus John the Baptist was sent to proclaim, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." Mark 1:3.

God's Word was not to depart out of their mouth; "It is written" was to decide everything. It was to be their meditation day and night. We need to meditate on the Word in order to obey. With the world against us, we need courage to obey. To do God's will and simply obey His Word requires courage in the face of the world, courage within our own hearts - the courage of faith which looks to God. And this is the secret of success and prospering in the conflict. When we are in the path of God's will, He will give us strength to go on in it, but we will not have His strength if out of that path.

In the Word of God we find His will made known to us. It keeps us in His presence and we learn from it His thoughts, His ways, His purposes and promised blessings — all His wondrous mind. We learn what He delights in, and so when we meditate in the Word, we dwell in the blessed atmosphere of His love and holiness.

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." What power the assurance of His mind gives! It would be impossible to obey His command unless assured of His blessed presence.

Scripture Alphabet

F——— A governor before whom Paul appeared. Acts 24.

F——— "By grace are ye saved through ————" Eph. 2.

F————— Jesus said, "I will make you ————— of men." Mark 1.

F——— Jesus said, "Seek, and ye shall ————" Matt. 7.

F————— "Suffer little children, and ———— them not to come unto Me." Matt. 19.

Messages of the Love of God



"Lion, Go That Way!"

One Sunday morning in Africa two Christian natives set out to visit a village some miles away. The narrow trail led across a wide plain through tall grass on either side, and as they walked along they had a strange sense that they were being followed. What was their fright when, looking around, they saw a lion stalking them.

Terrified, they stood motionless! The lion stopped too. They could not run away, nor were there any trees to climb, so these dear children of God prayed that He would protect them as He had long ago shut the lions' mouths for Daniel, His servant, in the lions' den.

Thus encouraged, the two men turned around and quietly started on their way again. Then, looking back, they saw the lion was following them

again. When they hurried on, the lion hurried after them; if they walked slow, he slowed down too. This went on for some time until they came to a path that went off in another direction.

They went a little way on their path, and then they turned around and faced the lion. He stopped too. Then, pointing to the other path, they spoke thus to the great beast: "Lion, we beg you to go that way, while we go this way!"

Evidently, the lion did not appreciate being told what to do and where to go, for he put his head down and growled angrily. The native Christians again asked God to save them. Then again addressing the lion, they said: "In the name of Jesus Christ, we command you to go *that* way."

At this, the lion looked along the other path and began to dig up the earth with his great claws. The men turned and began to walk slowly on their way. Looking back, with thankful hearts they saw that the lion had taken the other path.

Reaching the native village, they gathered the people together and held a gospel service. The native audience listened amazed at the story of how God had watched over them and protected them from the great lion. A little later, these two dear servants of Christ came home by the same path that they had come, singing hymns of praise and glory to God for all His gracious goodness and for His great deliverance.

"Whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe." Prov. 29:25.

Now will I tell to sinners round

What a dear Saviour I have found;
I'll point to Thy redeeming blood,

And say, "Behold the way to God."

The Stolen Puppies



A family of boys who lived on the edge of our village were thrilled beyond words one day when some one presented them with a basket containing five fat roly-poly little puppies. What fun they had feeding their lively little pets and watching them roll and squirm as they played on the lawn.

But evil eyes were on those doggies as well as admiring ones, and one dark night three of them disappeared from their kennel.

The boys all felt sad, but Mother said: "Never mind, we will tell God about it, and He can, if He sees fit, let us know where to find them. Or if it is His way, He can send them back to us again."

Three weeks later on a fine summer morning, to their great surprise and joy the boys found the missing pups playing around their kennel, and they carried them to their mother. "God did

it, my boys," said Mother. "How I do not know, but I'm quite sure He had to do with their being returned. He is a great God, yet He is interested in our little things; He wants us to trust Him to leave them in His hands."

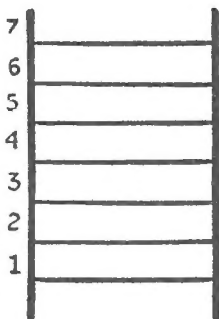
The boys had confidence in their mother's faith and were quite ready to believe that the return of the pups had not happened merely by chance.

Imagine their surprise when sometime later, Tom, a schoolmate, told one of the boys that he had been converted at a children's tent meeting. He told them that he had bought the pups two weeks before from a tramp for only a few cents. Now that he was a Christian, and knowing what a Christian ought to be and how he should act, he felt he must bring back the pets which he knew to be theirs.

This incident was never forgotten by those boys. Their mother's confidence in God, and the fact that conversion makes people want to be honest and to restore what is not their own, along with Tom's fine testimony to what the grace of God had done for him, impressed them greatly. It was the means of their being led to the Saviour not long after.

So God turned it all about for blessing. And that is just what God is seeking to do for you, our dear reader. He wants to bless you, to make you happy in His love.

Climb A Ladder



Changing only one letter at each step as you climb from 1 to 7, turn the first word you use right round about.

1. "The sun — of Ahaz." (Isaiah 38, 8.)
2. "— bountifully with thy servant." (Psalm 119, 17.)
3. "This my son was —." (Luke 15, 24.)
4. "— us not into temptation." (Matt. 6, 13.)
5. "Friend, — me three loaves." (Luke 11, 5.)
6. "There was a famine in the —." (Ruth 1, 1.)
7. "Thou hast much goods — up." (Luke 12, 19.)

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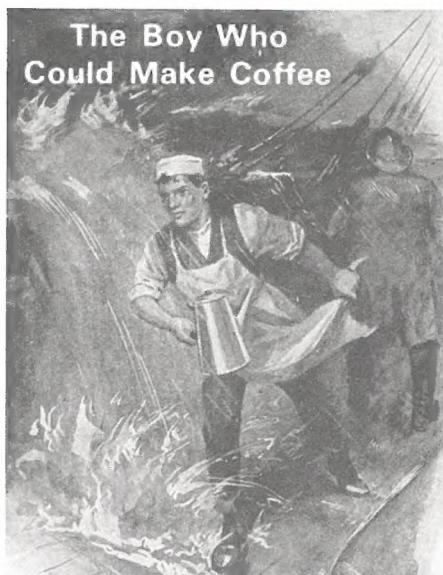
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God is faithful

1 Cor. 10, 13



Years ago a famous French chef was giving some lectures on cooking. Among the many ladies present was a young fellow, Will Corcoran. So intent was he at copying down recipes in his note book, that he did not notice the many quizzical looks and smiles directed at him. "He is surely in dead earnest," whispered one lady to another. "Perhaps he intends going into the king's kitchen."

But no, Will was simply going to sea as soon as he could get a berth. The lesson on coffee-making interested him most of all, for he had been told that the seamen drank lots of coffee, and that the way to their hearts was through the coffee pot.

When Will went to sea the sailors soon saw that he had a higher motive in his heart than a desire to please *them*, and the fact that he always knelt down to pray before turning in to bed showed plainly what it was. But the one thing which led to his influencing the crew was the fact that he could make good coffee.

On one terribly wild night their good ship, the Ophir, rolled and pitched in the raging seas, and the storm threatened to send her to the bottom. "We'll go down before morning," remarked a mate to himself, as he gazed into the awful darkness.

"I don't think so, Sir," came a voice from behind him. "God holds us in the hollow of His hand, and He is able to keep us. My mother often read to me about that. God is with us even here. Let's ask Him to keep us safe."

The mate was no coward, but he was drenched to the skin and thoroughly miserable. "Go on with you, boy," he scowled. "Don't give me any of your preaching."

Will only smiled as he ran to the galley and returned with the steaming coffee pot in his hand. "This is my business anyhow," he said cheerily. "Take a cup, Sir, and you'll feel better."

Will's pleasant earnestness, the mate confessed, quite took the wind out of his sails. "I'm half inclined to think you're right, boy," he said. It was a great admission for the mate to make, and Will slipped away triumphantly to see what coffee would do with the others. Here and there along the slippery deck he went with the coffee pot in his hand, and during that night many a shivering man was warmed and into many a heart he infused fresh courage. When morning dawned the Ophir was still afloat, the storm had died down, and many of the sailors had good reason to thank the young cook. Some of them joined him in his prayers that morning.

This went on day after day, and the Lord blessed Will's testimony to the men during that voyage.

Scripture Alphabet

G----- The archangel who appeared to Daniel, Zacharias and Mary. Luke 1.

G----- A sea also called "the Sea of Tiberias" and "Lake Genesaret." Matt. 15.

G----- The land in which Jacob, his sons and their families lived after leaving Canaan. Gen. 47.

G----- Eden and Gethsemane were ----- . Gen. 2, Mark 14.

G----- He used pitchers, lamps, trumpets and 300 men, and the Lord gave him the victory over the enemies of Israel. Judges 7.

Joshua



Joshua 1:10-18

"Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it."

We might wonder why the people are told to prepare food and then lodge on Jordan's banks for three days before crossing over. Three days speaks of a perfect period of time; they also speak of death and resurrection. Perhaps in the sight of Israel waiting patiently on Jordan's banks the Lord would have us learn that we could not cross the river of death, nor break down this world's strongholds in our natural energy. If we would follow the Lord, it must be in His time and according to His Word. God has His own time for everything, and He would not have His people act in fleshly zeal.

To prepare food and then wait for three days also suggests the necessity of our taking time to digest the truth we have learned and make it thoroughly our own before going forth to engage the enemy in conflict. Many of us are inclined to be impulsive, even in the Lord's things, and He has to teach us often by some humbling circumstance that we must wait on Him and not act in fleshly zeal.

The three days here are only figurative, of course. Through grace one might learn a lesson quickly while another's exercises might cover months and even years.

In the latter part of the chapter we read of the two and a half tribes - Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh - who chose to remain on the east side of the Jordan. They must,

however, cross over and fight alongside of their brethren. But they fight without the personal reward.

God would have all His people cross the Jordan into the land, but there are many Christians who, while they love the Lord, nevertheless they get very little beyond thinking of Christ as the One whom to trust for their daily needs; they enjoy but little of Him as the risen Man in the glory who has united them to Himself forever. It is a blessed thing to know the Lord as our Shepherd here on earth as the One who comforts and cares for us in our daily circumstances; but we ought to know what it is to be dead and risen and united to Him who is outside this world altogether.

The two and a half tribes had "much cattle," and they found the rich pasture lands on the east of the Jordan well suited to their purpose. Like many today, their thoughts were of earthly things when they might have enjoyed a richer portion within the land on the other side of the Jordan. Still they went over armed with their brethren and helped them in their wars to secure their possessions. And we, engaged in combat with the enemy to possess more of the unsearchable riches of Christ for ourselves, are also given the privilege of making known to others the riches of His grace and love.

A Short Sermon



Once when C. H. Spurgeon, the great evangelist, was to preach in Crystal Palace, he went to the Palace earlier in the day to try out the acoustics of the place. Having to say something, he said something worth saying:

"Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

A workman busy in one of the galleries heard the words that seemed to come to him from heaven, and smitten with conviction of sin, he put down his tools and went home. He did not rest until he was able to rejoice in Christ as his Saviour.

Messages of the Love of God



The Brave Sea Captain

Uncle William had come to visit us for a week. We all loved Uncle William, perhaps most of all because of the interesting stories which he told.

The first morning that he was with us, he gathered us all together and asked us each to say a Bible verse for him. It was Janie's verse which made him tell us this story. Her verse was, "Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." Psalm 121:4.

"That will always be my special verse," said Uncle William, "and I will tell you why.

"It takes me back to the very first trip I took at sea. We ran into a terrible storm, and we all thought that we would never see land again. The waves piled up so high around us and then came crashing down on our ship with a thundering roar. The great vessel cracked and groaned in all its joints as though it would split in two. For two days and two nights the storm

raged on, and all during that time the brave captain stood on the bridge and guided the ship as best he could. It was cold, and the rain and hail and sleet beat against him, but he would not leave. On the third day the storm began to wear away, the danger was over, and the captain went down to his cabin to rest. But he never came out again. Pneumonia set in, and in three days he was dead.

"Children, I can't tell you how I felt as they let the body of our brave captain down into the sea. I cried like a little child. But I was not the only one — tears were in the eyes of the big strong seamen too.

"Among the passengers there was a gospel preacher. I can still hear his voice, sounding out over the wide ocean, 'Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.' He spoke of the bravery of our captain who had given his life to guide the ship, and then he went on to tell us of the matchless love of our Lord Jesus who went into death for poor sinners like ourselves. He warned us about the storm of judgment ahead, and begged us to take Jesus as our own Saviour. In that very hour, Jesus became my own personal Saviour, and that verse has been a favorite of mine ever since."

Can you, dear reader, also say, Jesus is mine? He loves you and wants to wash your sins away, and be your Saviour, too.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Isaiah 1:18.

"Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.



How The Justice Got Saved

Richard Baxter, the gospel preacher, was riding to a village some distance from his home to preach. Night came on, and in the darkness Baxter missed his way. Finally he saw a lighted house near the roadside. Knocking at the door, he asked if he could spend the night there. The man of the house said he could.

At supper time the man asked his guest what his business was. Mr. Baxter told him in a quiet way, "I'm a man-catcher."

"Oh," he replied: "You are the very man I want. I'm the justice of the peace, and I want to catch Dick Baxter, who is to preach tomorrow morning in a nearby house.

Mr. Baxter did not tell the man who he was, but he agreed to go with him to the meeting the next day. The next morning they went to the house where the people had gathered to hear Dick Baxter preach. When the justice of the peace found that Dick Baxter had not yet arrived, he thought, "I suppose he has heard of my plan to arrest him, and he's not going to show up."

After a while the justice suggested that his guest should offer a prayer and talk to the people. Then Mr. Baxter began the meeting. He prayed with such power, those present felt that God was there. Then he delivered such a heart-searching message that the justice was melted to tears. As he closed his message, Mr. Baxter turned to him and said, "I am the Dick Baxter you are looking for! Take me!"

But he did not arrest Dick Baxter. God's Word had broken the man's heart, and instead of prosecuting the evangelist, the justice himself got saved. He lived to become a testimony for Christ in that village.

"Is not My word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" Jer. 23:29.

A Sheep Book



A group of poor shepherds and a missionary were gathered together around a log fire one chilly night in a cabin in the mountains of Asia Minor. These rugged men listened intently while the missionary read to them from the Holy Scriptures.

Very appropriately the missionary read from John's Gospel, chapter 10. "I am the good Shepherd: the good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep." v. 11.

An eager voice interrupted: "Oh, Sir, is that the gospel?"

"Yes," he replied, "This is the gospel of Jesus Christ."

"Oh," said the shepherd, his face aglow with simple pleasure and confidence, "I didn't know before that that Book was a Sheep Book."

Yes, the Bible is a sheep book; it is for lost sheep as well as for those who are found.

It tells of Jesus the Son of man, who "came to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isa. 53:6.

The Lord can say of those who trust Him as their Saviour:

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand." John 10:27-29.

Baby Moses



Long ago a wicked king, called Pharaoh, ruled over Egypt. He first made the Israelites slaves, and then when they multiplied so, he ordered them to throw every newborn son into the great river Nile.

But there was one godly father and mother who had a beautiful baby boy and they just couldn't throw him into the river. They had faith in God and so were not afraid of the king's command. They hid their little son for three months, but after that they thought he was getting too big to be hidden any longer. We are sure they asked God to take care of their little boy.

The poor mother gathered some bulrushes that grew along the river bank and made a basket called an ark, covered it with pitch, and put her little son in it. Then she left it floating

among the rushes at the edge of the river. His sister stood afar off to watch what would happen.

Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to bathe and seeing the little ark, she sent her maid to fetch it. When she looked in and saw the baby, he was crying. She felt sorry for him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

The baby's sister came up at that moment and asked her, "Shall I go and call thee a nurse of the Hebrew women that she may nurse the child for thee?" Pharaoh's daughter said, "Go;" so she went and called her mother. Perhaps Pharaoh's daughter thought what a nice kind nurse she was, though she did not know she was the baby's real mother.

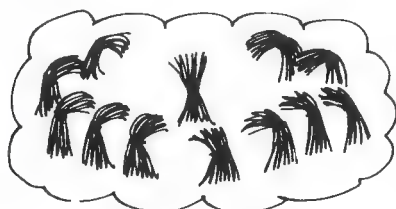
"Take this child away and nurse it for me" she said, "and I will give thee thy wages." So the mother took the child and raised him. Then she took him back to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She called him Moses because she drew him out of the water.

When he grew up Moses was called of God to deliver his people from their slavery. He led them out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, and for forty years across the wilderness to the borders of Canaan, their promised land. Then after those many years of faithful service, God took this servant home to heaven.

Joseph Dreams

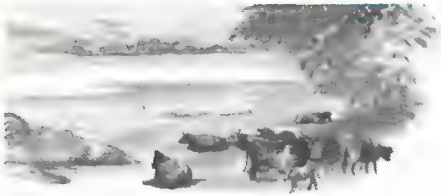
Read Genesis 37:5-11

Pictures of Joseph's two dreams are shown below.



What four words in verse 8 tell how the brothers felt about Joseph's dream?

Joshua



Joshua 1

The book of Joshua is so full of deep and precious meaning to the children of God that we are conscious of our weakness in trying to explain even a very little of it. However, we are encouraged when we remember that Moses told his people to read out of the Word of God even to the little children, so that if we learn these wonderful stories when we are young, the Lord Jesus by His Spirit will explain them to us some day.

"Moses, My servant is dead." We have now a new leader in Joshua, raised up to lead God's people across the Jordan and into the land of their promised possession. And our Joshua is the Lord Jesus who passed through death for us, but is risen again and now the blessed Man at God's right hand who, by His Spirit, leads us into the enjoyment of our heavenly blessings.

Moses was in one way a symbol of the law; but the law was aside from the law and given of God by promise to Abraham and his seed long before on the ground of unconditional grace. Moses and his rod of judgment are forever laid aside, for the heavenly places to us are according as He hath chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world."

We as believers, through the death of Christ, are dead to the law and to that with which the law had to do - the flesh, the old nature, and the world. We are crucified with Christ and risen with Him. So we read: "Moses, my servant is dead; now, therefore, arise." "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God . . . For ye are dead (or have died)." Col. 3:1, 3.

"All this people" were to go over Jordan with Joshua. And so we are all

raised and seated in heavenly places now in Christ Jesus. The youngest, the weakest and the least instructed babe in Christ is as much there as the established, well-taught teacher or most aged father among the saints of God.

"As I was with Moses, so will I be with thee." It was as if the Lord said, If I was with you through all the desert scenes and made all your needs and necessities My care, how much more will I be with you now when you are fighting My battles in the land and My warfare is your care. Moses could say, "these forty years the Lord thy God hath been with thee, thou hast lacked nothing" (Deut. 2:7.). Thus the Lord reminds them of His ever watchful presence and care that their hearts might trust Him whose battles were now to be fought and whose land was now to be taken from the enemy. In every hour of need "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

He's Mine

A Christian man tells the story of how the day after he first landed in Corsica, he distributed in the streets of Bastia some gospel tracts which were gladly received by all. He had brought with him from the hotel one small New Testament and had given it at the Old Port to a quiet-mannered, sad-looking lady in black. She had kept asking him for it. Four months later while walking on the Piazza, he was met by this same lady, who smilingly reminded him of the little book.

"Have you read it?" he asked.

"Yes, Signor."

"What have you found in it?"

"I have found Jesus Christ in it."

"And who is Jesus Christ?"

"My Saviour."

Oh how deep and precious is the joy of being able to say, "We have found Him" (John 1:45). "*He is mine.*"

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Saved By Indians

Jimmy lived with his parents near a deep swift river. He had been warned against swimming in such a dangerous stream, but one hot day the temptation to go for a swim was so strong that he disregarded the warning and decided to just swim near the bank. However, he became bolder as the water seemed so calm, and he ventured out a little farther where the current was stronger than he realized, and it soon pulled him under. He struggled hard, but the river was stronger than he and almost claimed him as its victim. Just as he was going down the third time he was seized by strong, brown hands and hauled into a canoe. When he came to himself, he found that his rescuer was an Indian.

Now, we would suppose that the Indians, for there were two, would take the boy home to his anxious parents - but not so! They took him on and on down the river until they reached the Indian camp. Here Jim

my's rescuer took him to his own home and, as he and his wife were childless, it was decided that the child should live with them as their own son. Jimmy cried for his beloved parents. How he wished he had not disobeyed them! How true it was in his case that "The way of the transgressor is hard"! However, the Indian woman was very kind to the little boy, and, in course of time, he became quite fond of her.

Now I must tell you that Jimmy's parents were believers and trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. They had taught their little boy how to be saved, and the many scriptures he had learned were now a comfort to his lonely heart. And not only this, but Jimmy taught his Indian parents of the God who had loved them and sent His Son to die for them. In course of time the Indian and his wife came to know the Lord as their Saviour.

Now since they were Christians, they began to realize how wrong it was of them to keep Jimmy away from his parents. Finally they could not rest until they had taken the stolen boy home. How great was the joy of both Jimmy and his loved parents to be reunited, and how glad they were to meet the Indians who had not only saved their boy from drowning, but who had been saved themselves to rejoice in the Lord's salvation, through the words their own son had spoken to them.

Thus the Lord brought good out of evil, though Jimmy never forgot the terrible suffering his disobedience caused both himself and his parents.

"Honor thy father and mother . . . that it may be well with thee." Eph. 6:2, 3.

The Safe Compass

Owls



Tom was a country boy who had just finished school. He was about to leave Sunday school and his friends to go and take a job in the big city. A kind Christian friend, who had gone with him to the station, said to him: "Now, Tom, remember you are going to launch your craft on a big and dangerous ocean."

"Yes, I know it," said Tom, and taking a Bible out of his pocket, and holding it up, he added, "But you see, I have a safe compass to steer by." That was fine, and we trust that dear Tom sought guidance from its sacred pages to steer a safe course home to heaven. The Book was the guide of young Timothy (2 Tim. 1:5, 3:15, 17) and it is still the best guide for youth today.

"Wilt Thou not from this time cry unto Me, my Father, Thou art the guide of my Youth?" Jer. 3:4.

Why Does Mother Keep You?



A Christian preacher one day asked a little girl, "Are you worth anything?"

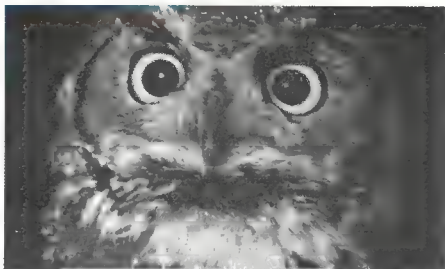
"No," she replied.

"Then why does Mother keep you?" he asked again.

"Oh, 'cause Mama loves me," came back her bright answer.

Why does God love us so? We do not know, except to say that love is His nature, for "God is love." 1 John 4:8. But we do *know* that He does love us.

"We love Him, because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19.



Did you ever see an owl? Owls are birds that fly about at night. They stay in some dark, secluded spot all day, but at night they are hunting about in the darkness for their supper, for they can see well in the dark. They eat mice and rats, fish, reptiles, insects, and sometimes birds and rabbits.

The nest of the owl is made of sticks and twigs and oftentimes are built in rocks or old houses or in the hole of a big old tree.

Some owls are as white as snow, and their feathers are as soft as cotton. Some are brown, and others are grey. Sometimes in the night we hear their strange eerie call which sounds much as if they were saying, "Whoo? Whooo? Whooo?"

In some of the Northern countries where the snow stays upon the ground much of the year, there are owls with pure white feathers. They are very large too; they can hardly be seen, since they look so much like the snow.

We often think of the owl as a wise old bird, and no doubt he is wise in many ways, for God has given His creatures remarkable wisdom in natural things.

Now the Lord Jesus is perfect wisdom; He is the Creator "who is blessed forever" (Rom. 1:25); and one of His names is Wisdom (Prov. 8). He gives understanding to the simple. "Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?" Prov. 8:1.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding." Prov. 9:10.

Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life.

Matthew 7:14

Among Robbers



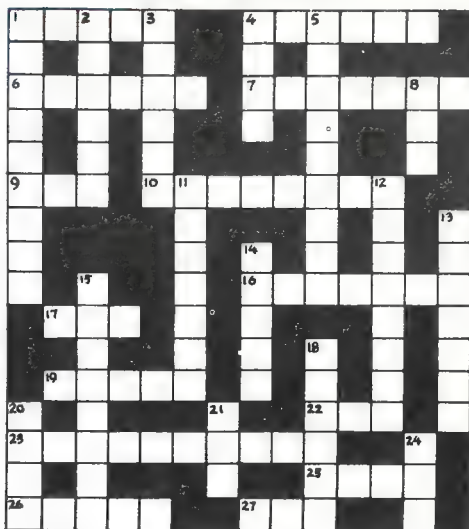
One night a band of robbers broke into the house of a Christian man in China. They took away his son and then asked for a great sum of money as a ransom. The poor father did not have enough money to pay the ransom, and he knew that if the money was not paid on a certain day in an appointed place, the child would be killed by the robbers. But he knew the One who has said: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me." Psa. 50:15. The father got down on his knees and prayed earnestly to God to save his child. He prayed the whole day and the following night.

Early in the morning he heard the voice of his boy at the door. He had a happy face, but his clothes were torn and his feet were sore. He told his parents how the Lord had helped him. In the evening, while the robbers were quarrelling among themselves and not watching him, he took the opportunity to steal away in the twilight. He had run all night to get home. With thankful hearts the whole family praised the Lord for this deliverance.

Scripture Alphabet

- F———A governor before whom Paul appeared. Acts 24
 F———By grace are ye saved through —." Eph. 2
 F———Jesus said, "I will make you — of men." Mark 1
 F——Jesus said, "Seek, and ye shall —." Matt. 7
 F———"Suffer little children, and — them not to come unto Me." Matt. 19

Bible Crossword



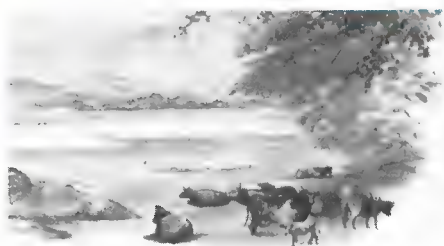
DOWN

1. He had compassion (Luke 10).
2. Mary was a — (Matt. 1).
3. He was a leper (2 Kings 5).
4. That — thing which shall be born of thee (Luke 1).
5. A Ruler of the Jews (John 3:1).
8. There were — Commandments.
11. Isaac's father (Gen. 21:2, 3).
12. Seventh word of the Lord's prayer (Luke 11:2).
13. Fifteenth book of the New Testament.
14. Moses' brother (Exo. 4:14).
15. One of the cities God destroyed (Gen. 13:10).
18. A man of tremendous strength (Judges 16).
20. The Lord used only — loaves to feed 5000 (Matt. 17).
21. The cloud covered Mt. Sinai — days (Exo. 24).
24. Boaz gave Ruth — measures of barley (Ruth 3).

ACROSS

4. Samuel's mother (1 Sam. 1).
6. Where Abraham was to offer up Isaac (Gen. 22).
7. A plague that fell on Egypt (Exo. 10).
9. Where there was no room for Joseph and Mary (Luke 2).
10. Where Jesus was from (Matt. 21).
16. A son of David (2 Sam. 13).
17. Known for his patience (James 5).
19. A wicked city destroyed by fire (Gen. 18).
22. "Much learning doth make thee —" (Acts 26).
23. The children of Israel.
25. Half of the people followed him (1 Kings 16).
26. Ruth gleaned an — of barley (Ruth 2).
27. God created — in His own image (Gen. 1).

Joshua



Joshua 1

Three times in this chapter the Lord encourages Joshua - "Be strong, and of a good courage." No doubt it was because fear had prevented them from going into the land before. They were afraid of the giants, and afraid of the way. It was a new way to them, and there was plenty to terrify them. If they looked at the Jordan overflowing its banks, they might feel afraid of death. But if they were keeping the word of God they could say, "But we passed through the Red Sea, and it only drowned our enemies; and we sang the song of redemption on the other side."

Again, if they thought of the enemies of the land, they might well feel afraid. But if they had God's Word in their hearts they might say, "Oh, but God destroyed Sihon and Og that great giant, and He will destroy all our enemies if we only trust in Him."

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses My servant commanded thee." There are adversaries, but the word is, "In nothing terrified by your adversaries" (Phil. 1:28). There may be giants and we as grasshoppers in our sight, and the cities walled up to heaven; but that is no matter. The greater and higher they are the greater their fall, and the more complete the proof of what God's power can accomplish by those who walk in obedience to His Word.

We need courage and strength to obey. We will prove God's strength to be with us when walking in the path of His will, but not out of it, and we need courage to do His will in this evil world. Many a young Christian has found that to have God's Word as the

standard of conduct, dress and associations bring reproach from the world. Men will say that times have changed, but in a scene where all is fast slipping morally and spiritually, going down to judgment, how thankful we can be that there is that which changes not and to which faith can ever cling - God and the Word of His grace, "which liveth and abideth forever."

We need courage with self to obey the Word. Who is not conscious of the unsubmitive will of the flesh in us - that which is not subject to the will of God, neither indeed can be? Also we need special courage with self to do His bidding, and this is the only path of happiness. Then we need courage one with another, with the world, with our friends, our relations, and with all.

God sees the future, the end from the beginning, and He has given His Word in view of all. When looking at the enemy, He tells us to "Be strong and of good courage." When He looks at ourselves, He says, "Be thou strong and very courageous . . . Turn not from it (the word) to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest."

In the end of the chapter the two and a half tribes who settled on the east side of Jordan seemed to be impressed with the Word of the Lord to Joshua and went to war with their brethren to help them gain their possessions. They left their wives and little ones behind. The Lord takes care of the loved ones of those who serve Him in helping their brethren.

On the other hand, the wives and little ones left behind here never saw that good land. What a lesson for Christian parents here! May we not "fall short," content to bring our children only halfway, as it were, but seek to lead them into the enjoyment of those heavenly joys and blessings which are theirs in Christ, the risen and glorified One.

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In The Gypsy's Tent

George was the son of a praying mother. Again and again she had pleaded with him to give his heart to the Saviour, but all in vain. His Sunday school teacher prayed with him and for him, but his words seemed to fall on deaf ears. George plunged deeper into sin.

His mother still prayed for her wandering boy, who had grown utterly reckless. Then she died with this prayer on her lips, "Lord, save George." George received the news of her death unmoved and rambled from place to place, drinking and gambling.

One day as he tramped across the country without money and friends, he fell suddenly ill, and lying down under a hedge he thought he was going to die. All night he lay there in a burning fever.

Thinking he was going to die, he remembered what a bad young fellow he had been, and he tried to recall what his Sunday school teacher used to tell him. But somehow his brain was muddled and he could remember nothing right. It was, he said, as if God shook him over the fire as he lay under

the hedge. All the sins of his life came before him, and he felt he was the blackest sinner out of hell.

In the early morning some gypsies came by and one of them asked him what he was doing there. He had just enough strength to murmur, "I'm dying."

"Poor fellow! Here, give us a hand!" said one to another, and they carried George away to their tent where they treated him as if he had been a brother. One little girl named Vic, would often sit by his side and bathe his head. Then one day as he lay there he thought he heard his mother singing him to sleep. He opened his eyes and there was little Vic by his side, singing. When she saw him awake, she stopped.

"Go on, sing that again," George pleaded. "I think I've heard that before."

Then she sang ever so sweetly,

"He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood avails for me."

"Yes, that's just what my mother used to sing," George exclaimed. "But now she's safe up yonder, and I shall never see her any more."

"Oh yes, you may, if you will only come to Jesus," said the gypsy girl.

"No, no, little girl; I've been too bad altogether. I can't come to Him."

"Yes, I'm sure you can, for you know the hymn says, 'His blood can make the foulest clean,' and that means the very worst, doesn't it?"

"Sure it does; but it seems too good to be true, for I knew the right, but did the wrong. It cannot be; I'm lost."

"See," said the girl earnestly, "it says in my Testament the lady gave me

that Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost; so that must be you!"

"Well, it looks like it, doesn't it?"

"Yes; and here again, 'I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.'"

"Thank God for that. Yes, I see it all now, that my mother and my teacher used to tell me, and I will now take the Lord Jesus as my Saviour and ask Him to take all my sins away and to make me His."

There was rejoicing in heaven that day, as well as in the gypsy tent, over one sinner that repented. Dear young reader, we were all prodigals once, *wanderers* from the Father's face. But has there been joy in heaven over you yet? Have you repented of your sins and turned to the Lord?

George proved afterwards that Christ is a present salvation. One who not only cleanses from the guilt of sin, but saves from sin's power. One day in the tent the awful craving for drink came upon him, and he cried to the Lord to save him from that thirst, lest he be drawn back into his old ways. Then the little gypsy girl read to him, "According to your faith be it unto you," and George cried, "Lord, Thou wilt, and Thou dost save me from this awful thirst." The desire for drink left him.

George showed by his altered life that his repentance was sincere. He was able to hold down a steady job, and it was his joy to spend his spare hours seeking to bring others to that wonderful Saviour, who is mighty to save — mighty to keep.

The little gypsy girl has since gone to be with the Saviour she loved and served here. One day when He comes in the clouds and all His own meet Him in the air, she will meet the man in whose blessing she was so greatly used of the Lord.

Standing In God's Smile



A tiny boy, two years old, stood in a ray of sunshine and said gaily, "Me standing in God's smile, Mamma." His mother replied, "God grant that my dear little boy may so live as always to stand in God's smile."

Not long after, God called the mother home, and the little boy was left to the care of others. He grew to manhood and became much respected in the world. So great was his desire to get on, he forgot to put God first. But he was restless and unhappy and no longer did he enjoy the sunshine of His love.

One day, looking over some relics, he found a paper parcel, and opening it found a tiny pair of shoes and these lines in his mother's handwriting: "These shoes were worn by my darling boy when he was two years of age. He stood in a ray of sunlight, saying, 'Me standing in God's smile, Mamma.' God grant that my darling boy may so live as always to stand in God's smile." Through these lines God spoke to him. It came home to him how he had been long out of fellowship with God, in fact he had gotten far from Him. The memory of his mother's faith and the impressions of his tender years came back to him. Humbly he turned back to the God of his mother, confessed the sin and failure of those years, and found the Saviour willing and ready to receive him back; for "him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37.

Try to fill in the missing letters and complete this gospel text.

		M			A	T			O	M	E		
		O			E				I				N
N					S				S			O	U



John 6



On September 2, 1666, one of the most disastrous fires of history took place. It has been called The Great Fire of London.

In the previous year — 1665 — there was what has become known as The Great Plague. This terrible scourge meant death to 100,000 people.

The great fire broke out in a wooden house near London Bridge. It burned for four days, during which 400 streets, 13,000 dwelling houses, nearly a hundred churches, including St. Paul's Cathedral and many hospitals and public buildings were destroyed.

In an effort to check the progress of the fire, houses were deliberately blown down to make gaps which the fire could not cross.

Terrible though the fire was, it was really a blessing in disguise, for it swept away the last traces of the plague in the unhealthy houses and streets of the town.

Does this not remind us of the plagues which were sent upon Pharaoh when he would not let the enslaved children of Israel go out of Egypt? All these plagues were sent as a punishment, but a greater plague than any of

these came upon the world long before Pharaoh lived.

It was the PLAGUE OF SIN! It had its beginning in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve, our first parents, disobeyed God and brought ruin on the human race.

This is no myth, as some of the so-called wise men of the world would have us believe. It is a fact that cannot be denied. We see evidences of this awful plague around us day by day. We feel its evil influences in our lives.

SIN — what a terrible plague it is!

The Great Fire of London helped cleanse away the foulness of England's greatest city, but the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus, amid the fires of Calvary's cross, came to cleanse men and women, and boys and girls everywhere of the great plague of sin. "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7. "Through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." Acts 10:43.

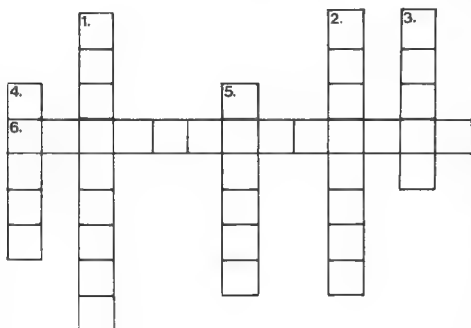
O what blessings flow from the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. How many can truthfully sing —

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know —
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

Have you, my dear reader, you who are plagued by sin, come under the power of the cleansing blood of the Lord Jesus? If not, why not come to the Saviour now?

"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

All Times



DOWN

1. My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto Thy _____ at all times.

Psalm 119:20.

2. Let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the Lord, be night unto the Lord our God day and night, that He _____ the cause of His servant . . . at all times. 1 Kings 8:59.

3. I will _____ the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Psalm 34:1.

4. _____ in Him at all times. Psalm 62:8.

5. A friend _____ at all times. Prov. 17:17.

ACROSS

6. Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth _____ at all times.

Psalm 106:3.

Joshua



Chapter 2:1

We now come to the wonderful story of Rahab and the destruction of Jericho, or mercy triumphing in the midst of terrible judgment.

Jericho, situated in the beautiful plains of the Jordan, was, we are told, indeed a "place of fragrance." It was a city of great strength in a position of exceeding loveliness. But it was the seat of the enemy's power, and a figure of this world devoted to judgment by the word of God. The Lord Jesus Christ will come from heaven with all His saints, and in flaming fire will execute judgment on the peoples of this earth who know not God and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 1:8). He will overthrow the strength and overturn the foundations of this world, and after that He will set up His kingdom and reign.

We see in Rahab a poor Gentile, dwelling in the doomed city, yet nevertheless an object of the rich display of the grace of God. Like us, she belonged to that large company we read of in Ephesians 2:11, 12:

"Ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; that at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

But degraded though she was, God was going to save Rahab. He had marked her out for blessing beforehand, and we who are debtors to His mercy alone, saved by sovereign grace, were chosen in Christ "before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." (Eph. 1:4).

Joshua sent out two men to spy out Jericho. Perhaps he thought only of judgment, but God had thoughts of mercy, and the two spies became evangelists. Thus in the story of Rahab the harlot we see the riches of the grace of God shining out and showing that, no matter how degraded and sunk in sin, no one is beyond the mercy of God. The men of this world like to display their power and wealth in material things, but God finds His delight in revealing Himself as God "Who is rich in mercy." In the coming day He will display "the exceeding riches of His grace, in His kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus." (Eph. 2:7).

The two spies were directed by God to the very house in the city where His grace had prepared a heart. Perhaps there was no better place in Jericho where they could lodge, for who can tell the moral condition of the cities of Canaan? Even in Abraham's day long before the iniquity of the Amorite was marked before God. For four hundred years He had borne with the ever-increasing corruptions of the inhabitants of the land, and now that the iniquity of the Amorite was come to the full, His judgment was about to fall.

How solemn to think the world's judgment is so near and that we are to be taken out of it before the judgment falls! "What manner of persons ought [we] to be in all holy conversation and godliness." (2 Pet. 3:11.) Like Rahab who busied herself in bringing her family under the shelter of the scarlet line, may we earnestly warn sinners of the doom that awaits them and urge them to seek the shelter of the blood of Christ.

God's house is filling fast—

"Yet there is room!"

Some guest will be the last—

"Yet there is room!"

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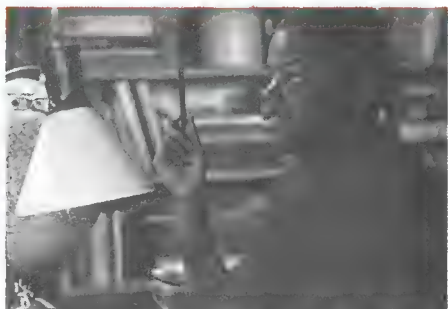
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An African Student

Edward was a young African student. He heard the gospel preached one day and then wrote asking the missionary for some tracts. He read the tracts and then asked for a Bible. God says of those who read His Word, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear . . . and keep those things which are written therein." Rev. 1:3. Edward believed that Jesus is the Son of God and trusted Him as his Saviour.

However, Edward had a problem - his parents still practiced "juju" or witchcraft, and they told him that if he continued to be a follower of Jesus, they would cut off his tuition from school, turn him out of their home and disown him.

Now Scripture says: "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee." Ps. 55:22. Edward proved faithful; he refused to give up his Saviour, so his parents disowned him.

Nevertheless, the Lord was working in that home. His parents' hut caught fire and burned down. While digging amid the smoking ruins, they came upon some tracts Edward had hidden there. They read the tracts, their hearts were melted, and soon they sent a

message to Edward to return home.

Edward came home carrying his Bible, and his parents listened while he read to them from the precious Book. He showed them how the Lord takes care of His own, just as He took care of the tracts in the fire. He read to them the story of Elijah, and then turned to John's Gospel. The wonderful story of the Saviour's death on the cross and of His resurrection had a profound effect on their hearts.

In time the parents became true believers in the Lord Jesus and gave up witchcraft. They told their witch doctor all that had happened, that they were now saved and on their way to heaven. He asked for the tracts, and he too read them. It wasn't long before the witch doctor himself came to Christ and was wonderfully saved too.

O the power of the name of Jesus! "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Rom. 1:16.

The Power Of His Name



For two days he traveled alone, scarcely meeting a human being. At last he found himself in the mountains and suddenly surrounded by a band of Indians. He expected each moment would be his last. Not knowing of any other resource, he tried the power of singing the Name of Jesus to them. Taking his violin he began with closed eyes to sing and play:

"All hail the power of Jesus' Name
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all!"

When he began the third verse, he opened his eyes to see what they were going to do, when lo! he saw tears falling from their eyes. They invited him to their homes, and he spent nearly three years among them.

Scott's labors were so richly rewarded that, when he was compelled to leave them because of ill health, they followed him for thirty miles.

"O Missionary," they cried, "come back to us again."

Through the preaching of the good news of salvation, many of those Indians were made new creatures in Christ Jesus.

The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. Rom. 1:16.

The Crooked Man



How many of you remember the crooked man you used to read about in your nursery rhyme book?

"There was a crooked man,
And he walked a crooked mile;
He found a crooked sixpence
Against a crooked stile;
He bought a crooked cat,
Which caught a crooked mouse,
And they all lived together
In a little crooked house."

He WAS a funny fellow, wasn't he?
HE was crooked, and everything

ABOUT him was crooked. He chose a crooked house and a crooked cat. Why do you suppose he did that? "Because he was crooked himself." Yes, that's right.

But you know, boys and girls, we're all pretty much like him. Our hearts are wicked; we love wicked things, and we like to walk down a crooked path in this world just like the crooked man. God wants us to walk a straight path, but we can't do it the way we are, can we?

That crooked man couldn't walk straight until HE was straightened out. And if we're going to walk on the path where God wants us to walk, we'll have to have our hearts changed. God is the only One who could make that crooked man straight. Doctors could not help—he's SO crooked only God could straighten him.

And, you know, our hearts are so sinful that no doctor or no one in the world can make them clean. We can't do it ourselves either. God is the only One who can—by washing them in the blood of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Have you ever opened YOUR heart to Jesus and asked Him to make it clean? The Bible says that your heart is wicked, but Jesus can make it white as snow. Accept Him as your Saviour, and He'll cleanse your heart right now. Believe that He died to save you.

The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31.



Oh, yes, oh, yes, there's something more,
Something more than gold:
To know your sins are all forgiven
Is something more than gold.

MESSAGES OF THE LOVE OF GOD

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Saved On The Hay Rake



It was a hot summer day and Jack was riding the hay rake. A verse of Scripture was going through his mind, "Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." 1 Pet. 3:18.

An evangelist had gone over that verse with Jack very carefully the night before as he tried to show him God's way of salvation. But somehow they were just words to Jack.

Jack had wanted to be saved for a long time, for he knew he was a sinner and afraid to meet God. At night after chores were done he would sit at the kitchen table and read his Bible. Then when every one else was gone to bed, he would kneel and pray, "O God, save me, save me."

At times when working in the corn field he would kneel between the rows and with tears plead with God to save him.

However, all his praying and reading

the Bible brought no peace to his poor troubled heart. If the Lord Jesus were to come, he thought, He would take his folks who were saved home to heaven, and he would be left behind.

Poor Jack! So burdened was he that he began to think the Lord must not care for him or He would surely have heard his cries and taken his sins away.

Then all of a sudden the words of that verse he had memorized seemed to speak to him with life-giving power. "Christ HATH also once suffered for sins, the Just for the *unjust*" — "For ME," cried Jack to himself joyfully — "I'm the unjust one, and He *has* already done it!" As he thought on the rest of the verse, his face began to glow with an inner joy — "that He might bring us — bring ME! — to God!"

"I'm saved . . . I'm saved!" he exclaimed, his heart unable to contain its happiness. "The Lord Jesus has suffered for my sins. There's nothing to worry about . . . it's all done!"

The sun shone down just as hot as before, but now Jack only thought of the warm smile of God. Even the hard bumpy seat on the rake seemed a holy place, for there it was God had met him and had spoken peace to his soul through His precious Word.

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." Jer. 15:16.

Try to fill in the missing letters and complete this gospel text. John 3

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 _ _ _ R _ _ _ _ _ N _ L _ _ _

Joshua



Chapter 2:2-11

“And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither tonight of the children of Israel to search out the country.”

At once the king sends to Rahab to demand the surrender of the two spies, but she refused and hid them. It seems natural for her to lie, for she deceived the king telling him the men had gone, where she did not know. Actually she had hidden them under the flax on the roof of her house. She was really a traitor to her country and lied to the king, but it was to throw herself under the protection of the God of Israel. For what folly it was to cling to Jericho which she knew was doomed.

God did not commend Rahab for her falsehood, and we ought to remember that we should never do evil that good may come (Rom. 3:8). God overruled her lie, but He did not approve of it (Rom. 3:7), for His Word says, “Lying lips are abomination to the Lord.” Prov. 12:22.

However, Rahab is commended for her faith in Hebrews 11:31. “By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.” In James 2:25 she is found in company with Abraham, for her *works* justified her before men. “Was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?”

While the men of Jericho pursued in vain after the spies, Rahab communed with the two men on her rooftop. “I know,” she said, first, “that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.”

How lovely to see faith working in Rahab; for “I know” is the language of faith. Rahab saw in Israel a people without a country, but God was in

their midst. Faith always connects God with His people, and she identifies herself with the Israel of God.

We have heard, she said, how the Lord dried up the waters of the Red Sea, and we have heard what you did to Sihon and Og on the other side of the Jordan. And when we heard these things there was no courage in any of us, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath. How beautiful to see such faith given to a poor sinner in a city doomed to destruction!

“We have heard,” says Rahab. She is a beautiful example of the word: “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Rom. 10:17. In the midst of the abounding wickedness and idolatry of her country, Rahab had learned that Israel’s God was the true God and that He had given them the land.

She had given proof of her faith by hiding the spies under the flax at the risk of her life. She had taken their side, she had taken God’s side; in spirit she had crossed from the world’s side to the side of God and His people. She says as it were, If God is to show grace to me, I must be with His people.

A Converted Gambler



In Switzerland once, a Christian gave a tract to a man in a town that was notorious for gambling. On his return to the town several days later he met this same man who exclaimed, “I thank you, Sir, for leading me to Christ who has saved both my soul and body.” He then explained that the day he had been handed the tract he lost so heavily in gambling that he was contemplating suicide. He had read the tract, was arrested in his downward course to ruin, and found Christ as his Saviour.

What mattered it now if he had lost all this world’s goods? He had found Christ, the true riches. Henceforth, he could look on to “an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, which fadeth not away, reserved in heaven,” for him. Dear reader, have you found these true riches?

Messages of the Love of God



Chinese Bandits

During the war between China and Japan the town of Yangcheng changed hands four times. Each time the Japanese were in power, the missionaries would flee to the mountains and live in caves having very little to eat. Each army in turn looted the city until there was scarcely anything left.

I was attempting to care for the sick and wounded; and only one of my orphan boys, Tim, was with me. One day I was in the middle of the courtyard telling some poor women of God's wonderful love.

"We are all sinners," I said, pointing unthinkingly at a crowd in the doorway. I gave them the simple gospel. The women drifted away, but soon Tim came hurrying in and exclaimed, "The general is coming for you."

Two hours later there was a great commotion in the courtyard, and there was the Chinese general. He glared fiercely at me and said, "You are under arrest."

"But why?"

"Who told you about me?"

"Nobody. I only know what everyone else in the city knows."

"Oh yes, someone did. Tell me who it was and I will take my men away."

Again and again I declared that I knew nothing of his private life. But he continued to rave and curse and finally left leaving his soldiers on guard.

Two days later the general came back again threatening me. "How did you know I was a sinner?" he asked.

"I only know that the Bible says so," I said, and handed him my Bible.

Pulling off his hat he began to read. Then I recall that I had caught a glimpse of a man in my doorway the day I talked to the Chinese women. For an hour he read on from verse to verse.

"What was this Bible? What was this gospel? Who was Jesus Christ?" Gradually he quieted and quit swearing; then a note of longing came into his voice.

"Is it possible for me to be saved?" he said at length.

"With God nothing is impossible," I replied.

"I am too wicked."

"No one is too wicked. Why don't you kneel down and confess to God that you have sinned but want to take Jesus Christ as your Saviour?"

Still the battle raged. "What do I get if I believe?" he demanded.

For two hours the battle went on in this man's soul, the Spirit of God striving against the power of Satan who fought to keep him under his power. Finally he knelt down, humbly confessed his sins, and accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour and Lord. When he arose from his knees, he ordered his men to bring me something to eat. He

stood by while I ate and then finally burst out, "If I have taken this God, then I have to tell my men about it, don't I?"

"Yes, to show them that you are a real Christian."

After a long pause he said, "I will talk to my men tomorrow."

The next day, standing before his men, he said: "Up to this time we have been a bandit troop. Now we will become honorable soldiers as last night I took Jesus Christ as my God. I find that this Book" — and he held up my Bible — "is against dishonesty and wickedness."

He asked me for a Bible which I got for him, and he left saying he would come again soon. However, two years went by. Then one day a dirty beggar hobbled in. He sat down on a stone. He looked desperately ill and starved.

"Don't you know me?" he asked, as I gave him something to eat.

"No, I don't."

"I belong to Jesus."

"Where are you going?" I asked him.

"Here."

"But surely you do not belong to Yangcheng."

"I belong to Jesus," seemed to be the only sensible remark he could make.

Then Tim pulled me aside and said, "He is the general."

"What is your name?" I asked gently.

"No name. I belong to Jesus."

Tim and I cared for him, and very slowly his health improved. Then I learned his story. On the day he bravely confessed his faith to his men, they arrested him, took his clothes, tied him to a mule and left the city. They continued looting, dragging the general with them. They tried hard to break his faith. He was tortured, kicked and beaten, but fixed in his mind was the knowledge that he belonged to Jesus. Finally one night one man said to him, "We want you back. Will you lead us?"

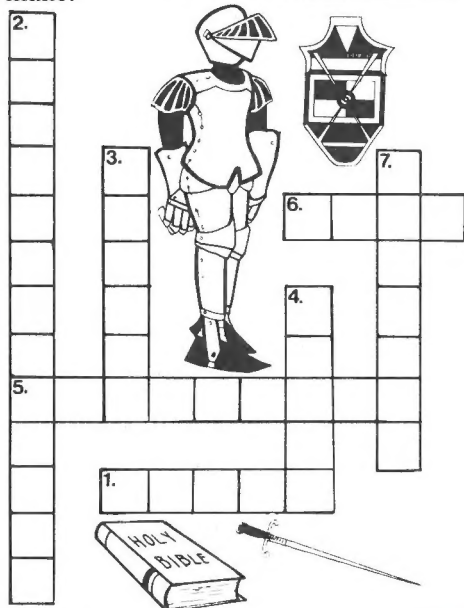
"No, because I belong to Jesus."

They left him alone, but the man brought him some peasant clothes and sent him on his way. He begged in the villages, telling everyone he belonged to Jesus. Weary and sick after fifteen months, he made his way back to us. As his health improved, his mind cleared. In the villages he was loved by all the Christians, especially the children. He never grew strong again, and a year after his return the Lord took him home. All the Christians mourned, for to them he had been "Big Brother."

The Whole Armor Of God

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil . . . Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (See Ephesians 6:10-18.)

1. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with _____,
2. And having on the breastplate of _____;
3. And your feet shod with the preparation of the _____ of peace;
4. Above all, taking the shield of _____, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
5. And take the helmet of _____,
6. And the sword of the Spirit, which is the _____ of God.
7. _____ always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.





Sally's Conversion As Told By Herself

There are six in our family and I am the youngest. My brothers and sisters were all saved, and often told me about the need of a Saviour; so did my father and mother and my Sunday school teacher. Still, I was without Jesus. Some children's meetings were held in the hall where our school is, and many boys and girls were anxious, and waited to be spoken to in the after meetings. I felt very miserable, especially when I heard them say they were saved.

One night I felt a load on my heart, and waited too. A gentleman spoke to me; he told me Jesus would save me if only I trusted Him, and he read this verse—"I will trust and not be afraid" (Isa. 12:2). He asked me if I could say that. I then saw it was all in *trusting*: I did trust Jesus and He saved me. I am happy now.

Sally Owens, 8 years old.



Old Joe

Old Joe lived in the West Indies years ago. He was very anxious to learn to read the Bible. He lived a long way from the missionary's house, and yet he would come whenever he had time to learn a lesson. It was such hard work, and he made such little progress, that the missionary got tired and told him one day that he had better give it up.

"No massa," he said with great earnestness, "me nebber gib it up till me die." And then, pointing with his finger to the beautiful words he just spelled out John 3:16.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

With tears in his eyes, he said, "It's worf all de trouble, just *dat one* verse!"

Then let us love our Bible more,
And take a fresh delight
By day to read their pages o'er
And meditate by night.



Peggy's New Testament

Peggy was just a little girl, and her parents were very poor. A kind man, walking along the road near the cottage where she lived, gave her a New Testament, and asked her to read a few verses of it every day. Peggy was delighted, but her parents were angry and threatened to take the precious Book away from her.

However, Peggy was so interested in her Book and the wonderful things it told her, that she could not stop reading it; so she dug a hole in the garden, lined it with pieces of wood, and then put a wooden lid on top. She covered the lid with a light layer of dirt. Into this strange place she put her precious Testament, taking every opportunity she could to read it.

Dear Peggy learned from the Book the way of salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and she came to trust Him as her Saviour and became a faithful follower of Him. Nor did it end there. Her parents, seeing the wonderful change in their little daughter's life, gave her liberty to read her Testament in the house, and by this means they were both brought to know the Saviour as their own.

Dear reader, you may not have such hindrance placed in your way by those at home as Peggy did, but has your heart been won for Christ?

"Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart." Jer. 29:13.

Joshua



Chapter 2:12-17

"By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace." Heb. 11:31.

Rahab saw that though Israel were a poor people wandering in the wilderness, not yet in possession of the land of their inheritance, nevertheless God was with them and they were His people. Though she was only a poor Gentile, yet grace brings her into the family of faith, like Ruth the Moabitess of a later day who could say, "Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." (Ruth 1:16.) This was indeed beautiful faith; and Rahab, before any of Israel's victories, already identifies herself with God and His people so that when the two spies came, she received them "with peace."

She had confessed the Lord as "God in heaven above and in earth beneath." (v. 11.) Then He must prevail; it would be hopeless to resist Him. He had given Israel the land, and the doom of those who opposed was certain. Daniel in his day read in "the handwriting on the wall" the fall of great Babylon, and for us now the written Word proclaims most solemnly that the judgment of the world draws nigh.

Having told the spies all she knew, Rahab's faith now rises higher, and she puts before them what she desired. She sees in these two men the servants of the Lord, who cannot lie, and her faith claims the kindness of God. "Swear unto me by the Lord, that ye will also show kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token." Her faith had grasped something at least of the blessed truth that Israel's God was a God of mercy, and how unlike the gods of her people.

The life of those two men were her guarantee of salvation; thus she preserved them under the flax on her roof.

And we as believers now have the guarantee of our salvation in a Saviour who has not only died for us, but is risen from the dead, "raised again for our justification," a living, glorious Saviour at God's right hand.

Rahab brings God into the matter. She makes Him a party to this matter, the greatest transaction in her life, and what she asked for she got. God is equal to the greatest demand, and He responds to Rahab's noble faith through His two servants: "And the men answered her, our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business." Their life was the guarantee of hers, even as Christ's is of ours.

How beautiful this all is! such faith given to a poor sinner in a city doomed to destruction! And Rahab does not merely ask for herself; she asks for others, those near and dear to her by nature's ties. "Give me a true token," she says; "and that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death." Her faith seems to say, There is nothing too much to claim from God. Does not this faith of Rahab who lived long, long ago, who had so little light compared to us, put many of us to shame?

Try to complete this gospel text. Eph 6

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